



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 27, 2009

John P. Allen, Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest
1001 SW Emkay Drive
Bend, OR 97702

**Subject: Final EIS for the proposed BLT Project
EPA Region 10 Project Number 05-016-AFS**

Dear Mr. Allen:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed **BLT Project** (CEQ No. 20090081) on Crescent Ranger District of Deschutes National Forest in Deschutes County, OR. Our comments are provided in accordance with our authorities under the Clean Air Act § 309 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In our comments on the draft EIS in November 2008, EPA expressed environmental concerns about air quality and visibility, water quality, and health impacts. We recommended that the final EIS should include missing or unclear information to address our concerns.

We are pleased to see that the final EIS includes responses to our comments. We appreciate additional clarifying information provided in this EIS, and other changes made to the EIS between draft and final using comments received from the public and other agencies. Your responses addressed our concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) for this project. If you have questions or you would like to discuss the above comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye at (206) 553-6322 or me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

cc: EPA Oregon Operations Office